

December 20, 2002



Metropolitan
Transportation
Authority

One Gateway Plaza
Los Angeles, CA
90012-2952

TO: BOARD OF DIRECTORS

THROUGH: ROGER SNOBLE
CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER

FROM: JAMES L. de la LOZA, EXECUTIVE OFFICER
COUNTYWIDE PLANNING & DEVELOPMENT

SUBJECT: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL
ORGANIZATIONS

ISSUE

This report is prepared in response to the October 1997 Board action that requires the CEO or designee to report quarterly to the Board on the status and progress of regional external organizations on which MTA is represented by Board members or elected-official appointees. Board members may request that any item described in this report be brought forward for discussion at a future Board meeting.

DISCUSSION

Attachment A is the Quarterly Report on Regional External Organizations: Fiscal Year 2002-03 1st Quarter ending September 30, 2002. As a regional transportation planning agency, MTA participates on the boards of seven organizations.

The following report summarizes the roles and responsibilities, status, and progress of each organization.

Attachment

METROPOLITAN TRANSPORTATION AUTHORITY

Attachment A: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS
1st Quarter, ending September 30, 2002

ORGANIZATION: 1) Southern California Regional Rail Authority (SCRRA)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Nalini Ahuja Patricia Chen	
		PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-3088 (213) 922-3041	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: The Joint Powers Authority is made up of MTA, OCTA, RCTC, SANBAG, and VCTC. Mission: Plan, construct, and administer the operation of regional passenger rail lines (known as "Metrolink").		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Michael Antonovich/.....Robert Bartlett Larry Zarian/.....Beatrice Proo Don Knabe/.....John Fasana Hal Bernson/.....Francine Oschin	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
On-Time Performance on the Riverside (UP) Line	The on-time performance for the Riverside Line has been in the mid-to-high ninety percent range so far during the 1 st Quarter, FY '03, a very acceptable level. A Notice of Non-Performance had been sent to UPRR in March 2002. Under the terms of the agreement governing Metrolink operations on the Riverside Line, UPRR had 30 days to improve on-time performance or SCRRA could move the issue to arbitration.	SCRRA staff will continue to monitor on-time performance on the UPRR and recommend further action if necessary.	S
Opening of the "91 Line" serving Riverside, Fullerton, and Los Angeles.	Passenger volumes on the 91 Line from Riverside via Fullerton to Los Angeles have risen steadily from startup on May 6, 2002, to the present. The average weekday passenger trips in September was over 1,500. This is almost double the figure for May, 2002.	SCRRA and member agency staffs are exploring options to further expand service on the line and accommodate continued ridership growth.	S

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Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Amtrak Financial Status	<p>Negotiations are continuing between Amtrak and the federal government regarding funding for Federal Fiscal Year (FFY) 2003. The latest House Appropriations action would provide \$762 million, while the latest Senate action would provide \$1.2 billion, the full Amtrak request.</p> <p>A Continuing Resolution is now providing funding at a rate which would be equivalent to \$1 billion per year. There is no immediate financial threat to Amtrak's operations, due to the continuing resolution. However, SCRRA staff has received bids from private parties who could temporarily hire and pay Amtrak engineers and conductors to allow continued operation of the Metrolink system in the event of an Amtrak shutdown.</p> <p>Amtrak engineers and conductors operate Metrolink services through a contract between Amtrak and SCRRA. Amtrak President David Gunn has indicated that if Amtrak does not receive timely financial assistance from the federal government, Amtrak would terminate operation of all services, including its operation of Metrolink service.</p> <p>On October 1, 2002, the dispatchers who were formerly Amtrak employees became SCRRA employees. As a result, if Amtrak should cease operation, SCRRA could continue to dispatch trains over the rights-of-way owned by SCRRA member agencies.</p>	SCRRA staff will continue to monitor the financial negotiations underway within the federal government and take any necessary actions to keep Metrolink service in operation.	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 2) Los Angeles-San Diego –San Luis Obispo Rail Corridor Agency (LOSSAN)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Patricia Chen Jay Fuhrman	
		PHONE NUMBERS: (213) 922-3041 (213) 922-2810	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: LOSSAN is a Joint Powers Authority composed of OCTA, MTA, NTC, SANDAG, SBCAG, SLOCOG, VCTC, and Caltrans (with SCAG as an ex-officio member). The organization’s mission is to provide efficient, effective inter-city rail services in the Los Angeles-San Diego Rail corridor. Specifics: Coordinate capital improvements along the corridor; develop a capital program to secure funding from state and federal governments; coordinate and conduct a legislative and lobbying program at the federal and state level for LOSSAN corridor issues, especially those that give voice to funding needs and funding inequities.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Beatrice Proo Jacki Bacharach	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
LOSSAN Advocacy Strategy	At its meeting on September 20, 2002 the LOSSAN Board of Directors approved the fall advocacy meetings with Congressional elected officials and directed staff to coordinate the meetings to take place soon in anticipation of upcoming Congressional reauthorization efforts. LOSSAN staff will work closely with the office of the California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency to ensure that a consistent, integrated message is brought to the attention of officials throughout California and Washington.	After coordinating with the office of the California Secretary of Business, Transportation and Housing Agency, LOSSAN staff will work closely with Board members to begin scheduling advocacy meetings to take place between mid November and early December in support of upcoming federal reauthorization efforts.	S
Amtrak Pacific Surfliner Ridership	Monthly ridership for September '02 was 142,670 along the Pacific Surfliner route, an increase of 9% over FY '01 ridership. This is attributable, in part, to the new Metrolink Rail-2-Rail program in which 9,800 riders took advantage of the program the first month. Rail-2-Rail is a new program funded by Metrolink and Caltrans in which Amtrak ticket-holders and Metrolink monthly pass-holders have fare reciprocity between the two systems between Oxnard and Oceanside. Other elements of the program include Amtrak and Metrolink accepting any fare media between Burbank Airport and Los Angeles Union Station (LAUS), and a 3-month agreement with Southwest Airlines to allow travel on any train free of charge between Burbank Airport and LAUS with proof of Southwest Airline travel into or out of Burbank Airport on the same day.	Continue to monitor monthly ridership in the LOSSAN corridor and track ridership attributable to the Metrolink Rail-2-Rail program and the impacts on both Metrolink and Amtrak ridership and loading of specific trains. Also monitor the financial impact of this service on both Metrolink and Caltrans.	S

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Attachment A: QUARTERLY REPORT ON REGIONAL EXTERNAL ORGANIZATIONS 1st Quarter, ending September 30, 2002

ORGANIZATION: 3) Mobile Source Air Pollution Reduction Review Committee (MSRC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Douglas Kim / Stephen Fox Cosette Stark	PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-2817 / (213) 922-2238 / (213) 922-2822
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: MSRC is an independent entity created by State law, which allocates about \$12 million annually in AB 2766 discretionary funds from a portion of an annual \$4 DMV surcharge. This revenue is used to fund programs that reduce air pollution from motor vehicles. MTA represents its interests and those of LA County jurisdictions. The MSRC is composed of eight member agencies: MTA, South Coast Air Quality Management District (SCAQMD), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), California Air Resources Board (CARB), and Southern California Rideshare (regional rideshare agency).		MTA REPRESENTATIVE/ALTERNATE: Beatrice LaPisto-Kirtley / Margaret Clark	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
FY 2002-03 Annual Work Program	On September 26, 2002, the MSRC approved a \$14.9 million Work Program that earmarks funding for clean fuel vehicles and transportation control measures. This includes the following programs: Regional Vanpool Program (\$450,000), Rideshare Thursday Public Outreach campaign (\$800,000), Local Government Match Program for Clean Fuel Vehicles (\$2,000,000), On/Off-Road Heavy-Duty Vehicles (\$3,250,000), Alternative Fuel Transit Buses (\$2,450,000), Alternative Fuel Infrastructure Program (\$1,250,000), CNG School Bus Program (\$1,250,000), Diesel Particulate Trap Retrofit Program (\$500,000), Light-Duty Vehicle Repair Program (\$500,000), and Expanded Freeway Service Patrols (\$1,500,000).	Funding proposals will be solicited through January 10, 2003 from MTA and other entities. Funding for projects would be awarded in February 2003.	N

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ORGANIZATION: 4) Alameda Corridor Transportation Authority (ACTA)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE NUMBER:	Michelle E. Smith (213) 922-3057
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: ACTA is responsible for managing the design and construction of the Alameda Corridor program. ACTA is composed of the following member agencies: MTA, City of Los Angeles, City of Long Beach, Port of Long Beach, and Port of Los Angeles.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Yvonne Burke Don Knabe	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Alameda Corridor Program – Overall Status	The grand opening for the Alameda Corridor was held on April 12, 2002. MTA fulfilled its commitment of \$358.8 million towards completion of the Alameda Corridor Program. There is no new information regarding this organization.	NA	NA

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ORGANIZATION: 5) Regional Transportation Agencies Coalition (RTAC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: PHONE:	Douglas Kim / Eric Carlson (213) 922-2817/(213) 922-3069
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: RTAC provides member agencies with a forum to discuss legislative mandates of mutual interest as set forth in AB 1246. RTAC addresses issues, facilitates identification, coordination, and resolution of transportation and air quality issues affecting member agencies. This includes SB 836, 1998 legislation which provided \$3 million for implementation of MTA's Regional Rideshare Program (i.e., Rideshare 2000 and Club Metro). RTAC is composed of six voting members: MTA, Orange County Transportation Authority (OCTA), Riverside County Transportation Commission (RCTC), San Bernardino Associated Governments (SANBAG), Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG), and Caltrans. The five Southern California air districts, Imperial Valley Association of Governments, and Ventura County Transportation Commission are ex-officio members.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: Beatrice Proo	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Meeting Schedule	RTAC met on July 18, 2002. Agenda items included: an update on the 2002 RTIP, delivery of Regional Rideshare Services In FY 02-03, the AB 1246 Consultation process, TEA 21 Reauthorization, updates on AQMD's Air Quality plans, and SB836 rideshare project reimbursement requests for MTA and RCTC.	The RTAC is scheduled to meet next in February 2003	N
Interagency Consultation Process	At the last RTAC meeting RTAC members acknowledged that the current AB 1246 process was working effectively, and questioned the need to modify the consultation process. However, at the TCC meeting, Mark Pisano was directed to continue developing memo that would outline some new and improved AB 1246 Consultation processes. The commissions are all presently reviewing this draft. Until all commissions reach agreement on any modifications to the current process, RTAC will remain the forum for AB 1246 Consultation.	The RTAC will be updated on the status of discussions between SCAG and the transportation commissions on the transition to a new AB 1246 consultation process.	N
Rideshare	The Rideshare Subcommittee of the RTAC met on July 24, August 28 and September 25 to coordinate and monitor county rideshare activities. This is critical since all the county transportation agencies within the SCAG region are in the process of transferring regional rideshare functions from SCAG to their respective agencies. The functions that have moved from SCAG to date have occurred smoothly and coordination activities regarding future rideshare function transfers are on schedule.	The MTA SB 836 voluntary rideshare project is scheduled to be closed out in early Winter. Planning efforts to ensure that all rideshare functions will be transferred from SCAG by July 1, 2003 will continue.	N/A

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ORGANIZATION: 6) SCAG Transportation and Communications Committee (TCC)		LEAD MTA STAFF: Douglas Kim / Eric Carlson PHONE NUMBER: (213) 922-2817 / (213) 922-3069	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: TCC is a policy advisory committee to the Southern California Association of Governments (SCAG) Regional Council on all regional matters pertaining to the movement of goods and people. TCC reviews the Regional Transportation Plan (RTP) and the Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP) and makes recommendations to the Regional Council. The TCC also provides recommendations on state and federal legislative proposals and administrative guidelines affecting planning and capital improvement programs for transportation and utilities.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES: John Fasana (SGVCOG) Hal Bernson (City of Los Angeles) Pam O'Connor (City of Santa Monica) Beatrice Proo (City of Pico Rivera) MTA Seat: Vacant	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
2004 Regional Transportation Plan	SCAG Task Forces continue to meet to identify and address key challenges and issues for their upcoming 2004 RTP, which identifies regional funding priorities through 2030.	SCAG task forces will continue to meet to develop recommendations that will feed into the Draft 2004 RTP	N
2001 Regional Transportation Improvement Program (RTIP)	On August 1, 2002, SCAG approved the \$24.8 billion RTIP, which includes MTA's programmed projects from FY 2002 through 2008.	The RTIP will be submitted to State and federal agencies for their approval. Federal agencies must approve the RTIP by October 6, 2002 to ensure continued federal funding of transportation projects.	S
Gold Line Phase II Feasibility Studies	On July 11, 2002, SCAG recommended that MTA and the San Gabriel Valley COG consider extending the Gold Line Phase II extension from Claremont to the Montclair transit terminal. SANBAG would contribute to the costs needed to study this option.	This request will be considered during the next phase of the project development process and accompanying EIR.	N

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ORGANIZATION: 7. Advanced Transit Vehicle Consortium (formerly Fuel Cell Buyers Consortium)		Lead MTA Staff: Cynthia Gibson Phone Number: (213) 922-4424	
ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES: 1. Improving bus service through Advanced Technology High Capacity vehicles. 2. Improving air quality through ultra low and/or zero emission advanced technology vehicles. 3. Capturing economic benefits from manufacturing advanced technology vehicles. 4. Creating new high technology jobs.		MTA REPRESENTATIVES/ALTERNATES: Frank Roberts (Alternate: Vacant)	
Issue	Quarterly Actions (Including Dates of Actions)	6-Month Projected Actions	MTA Position*
Evaluation of potential BRT Vehicles	<p>Evaluated the CIVIS and the Cristalis bus both produced by Irisbus and the "Tram on Wheels" designed by Bombardier. All buses had advanced design, high capacity, low floor, ideal for BRT application, hybrid electric, optional optical guidance system, ultra low emission.</p> <p>Issued Request for proposal for up to 72 advanced design, CNG electric (or hybrid electric) articulated BRT vehicles. Proposals are due on October 16, 2002 with a Board recommendation targeted for January 2003. First BRT vehicle deliveries anticipated in December 2004.</p>	<p>Follow-up with City and county on bringing bus manufacturer to Los Angeles.</p> <p>Follow-up with AQMD on potential funding</p>	N/A